

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A ball-and-socket joint for motor vehicles, the ball-and-socket joint comprising:

a joint ball and a pivot pin;

a housing part formed of a shaped metal tube and formed with a top end edge with an opening and an opposite end with a pivot pin opening having a pivot pin opening edge, said housing part having an outer peripheral surface at an outside of the housing part extending from said top end edge to said pivot pin opening edge and having an inner peripheral surface at an inside of said housing part extending from said top end edge to said pivot pin opening edge; and

molded material molded on said housing part portion outer surface and inner surface forming functional surfaces on each of an inside and an outside of said housing part.

2. (Currently Amended) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 1, wherein said functional surfaces include a bearing shell portion forming at least a part of a bearing shell surface on the inside of said housing part and a bellows seat surface contour on an outside of said housing part.

3. (Currently Amended) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 2, wherein said bearing shell portion forms the entire bearing shell surface with said joint ball contact surface in contact with substantially all of a bearing surface of said joint ball.

4. (Currently Amended) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 3, wherein said bearing shell portion includes extension segments integral with said bearing shell portion and extending from a region of said bearing shell portion molded on said housing part portion, said extension segments being molded to a shape to form a joint ball end region bearing surface.

5. (Withdrawn) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 2, wherein said bearing shell portion forms only a portion of said joint ball contact surface in contact with only a portion of a bearing surface of said joint ball.

6. (Withdrawn) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 3, further comprising: a bearing shell insert inserted in said adjacent to said bearing shell portion, said bearing shell insert having a joint ball bearing surface and cooperating with said bearing shell portion for bearing contact with said joint ball.

7. (Original) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 4, further comprising an end cap wherein said housing part is formed as a shaped metal tube with the top end having an opening and said end cap closes said opening.

8. (Original) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 1, wherein said functional surfaces on each of said inside and said outside of said housing part are formed of one molded

part wrapping around an edge of said housing part.

9. (Withdrawn) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 8, wherein said functional surfaces on each of said inside and said outside of said housing part formed of one molded part wrapping around said edge of said housing part also connect to each other through one or more molded in ties integral in said molded part, said ties passing through one or more holes in said housing part.

10 - 29 (Canceled)

30. (New) A ball-and-socket joint for motor vehicles, the ball-and-socket joint comprising:

a joint ball and a pivot pin;

a housing part formed of a shaped metal tube and formed with a top end edge with an opening and an opposite end with a pivot pin opening having a pivot pin opening edge, said housing part having an outer peripheral surface at an outside of the housing part extending from said top end edge to said pivot pin opening edge and having an inner peripheral surface at an inside of said housing part extending from said top end edge to said pivot pin opening edge; and

molded material molded on said housing part outer peripheral surface and inner peripheral surface forming functional surfaces on each of said inside and said outside of said housing part and said molded material molded on said housing part outer surface to form a

groove surface, said groove surface being in a molded material part region with said pivot pin opening edge arranged therein.

31. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 30, wherein said pivot pin opening edge is covered by said molded material part, with said molded material part extending outwardly therefrom and outwardly from the adjacent outer peripheral surface and inner peripheral surface of the housing part.

32. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 31, wherein said groove is at least partially defined by a portion of said housing part adjacent to said pivot pin opening edge, with said groove having a curve along an axial extent thereof.

33. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 31, wherein said groove is annular extending around said housing part.

34. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 33, wherein said molded material part is an integral single piece.

35. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 34, wherein said groove is at least partially defined by a curve or bend in a portion of said housing part adjacent to said pivot pin opening edge, with said groove having a curve along an axial extent thereof.

36. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 30, wherein said housing part is covered by said molded material part molded on said inner surface to form at least a part of a joint ball pivot bearing surface on said inside of said housing part and on said housing part outer surface to form said groove surface.

37. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 1, wherein said molded material of said molded material part is arranged on said inner surface to form at least a part of a joint ball pivot bearing surface on said inside of said housing part and on said housing part outer surface to form a groove surface.

38. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 37, wherein said pivot pin opening edge is covered by said molded material part, with said molded material part extending outwardly therefrom and outwardly from the adjacent outer peripheral surface and inner peripheral surface of the housing part.

39. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 30, wherein said molded material of said molded material part is arranged on said inner surface to form at least a part of a joint ball bearing shell portion on said inside of said housing part and on said housing part outer surface to form a groove surface wherein said bearing shell portion includes extension segments with adjacent folded area region integral with said bearing shell portion and extending from a region of said bearing shell portion molded on said housing part, said extension segments being

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molded to a shape to form a joint ball end region bearing surface.

40. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 39, wherein said molded material part is an integral single piece.

41. (New) A ball-and-socket joint for motor vehicles, the ball-and-socket joint comprising:

a joint ball and a pivot pin;

a housing part formed of a shaped metal tube and formed with a top end edge with a top opening and an opposite end with a pivot pin opening having a pivot pin opening edge, said housing part having an outer surface at an outside of the housing part extending from said top end edge to said pivot pin opening edge and having an inner surface at an inside of said housing part extending from said top end edge to said pivot pin opening edge; and

molded material part molded on said housing part inner surface to form at least a part of a joint ball pivot bearing shell surface on said inside of said housing part and said molded material molded on said housing part outer surface to form a groove surface, said groove surface being defined by a bent or curved portion of said housing part, adjacent to said pivot pin opening edge, cooperating with said molded material on said housing part outer surface.

42. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 41, further comprising a bellows seal, wherein said groove is a bellows seat surface contour on an outside of said housing, said

bellows seal having a portion seated in said for receiving bellows seat surface contour.

43. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 41, wherein said molded material of said molded material part is arranged on said inner surface to form said joint ball bearing shell portion on said inside of said housing part wherein said bearing shell portion includes extension segments with adjacent folded area region integral with said bearing shell portion and extending from a region of said bearing shell portion molded on said housing part, said extension segments being molded to a shape to form a joint ball end region bearing surface wherein said bearing shell portion and said joint ball end region bearing surface forms the entire bearing shell.

44. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 41, wherein said bearing shell portion forms only a portion of a joint ball contact surface in contact with a bearing surface of said joint ball.

45. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 41, further comprising an end cap connected to said housing part at said top end edge, said end cap closing said top opening.

46. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 41, wherein, said groove is annular extending around said housing part.

47. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 41, wherein said molded material

part is an integral single piece.

48. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 41, wherein said molded material part wraps around said pivot pin opening edge of said housing part.

49. (New) A ball-and-socket joint according to claim 48, wherein said functional surfaces on each of said inside and said outside of said housing part formed of one molded part wrapping around said edge of said housing part also connect to each other through one or more molded in ties integral in said molded part, said ties passing through one or more holes in said housing part.

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